## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

A process for forming ceramic composites of an oxygen-ion conducting ceramic and an alkali-metal-ion conducting ceramic; forming a shaped composite of a precursor ceramic of α-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or mixtures thereof, and the oxygen-ion conducting ceramic such that a continuous matrix exists in the composite for both the precursor ceramic and oxygen-ion conductor, subjecting the composite to a vapor containing the metal oxide of an alkali metal at sufficient temperature and for sufficient time to convert the precursor ceramic to an alkalimetal-ion conducting ceramic of alkali-metal-β-or β"-X<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, where X is Al or Ga.

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